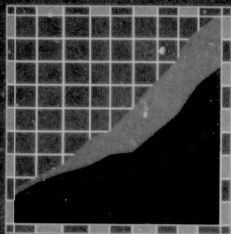


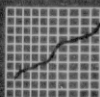
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 12 October 1989



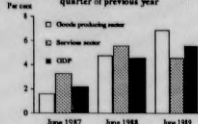
The week in statistics ...

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statistics

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT 1984-85 PRICES
Change in trend from corresponding
quarter of previous year



Economy records strong growth in 1988-89

The Australian economy as measured by Gross Domestic Product grew by a strong 5.7 per cent between the June quarter 1988 and June quarter 1989.

Most industries shared in the strong growth, led by Agriculture, Manufacturing, Construction, and Wholesale and retail trade, all of which grew by more than 7 per cent.

Public administration and defence was the only industry category to grow by less than 2 per cent, reflecting the low growth of public sector employment.

All these measurements are based on the industry revalued trend estimates of GDP at constant 1984-85 prices (see table below).

For the June quarter 1989, the same trend estimate recorded growth of 0.8 per cent. All industry categories except Mining and Electricity, gas and water (which each recorded some negative growth) grew by between 0.6 per cent and 1.3 per cent in the quarter.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT 1984-85 PRICES, JUNE QUARTER 1989
Trend estimates

	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Goods producing sector	24,774	0.6	7.0
Primary (Agriculture and Mining)	6,917	0.1	7.0
Manufacturing	11,050	0.7	7.2
Other (Electricity, gas and water and Construction)	6,797	1.0	6.7
Services sector	34,041	0.9	4.7
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,084	1.7	6.5
Gross Domestic Product (industry revalued estimate)	62,899	0.8	5.7

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked (5222.0)* or contact Jim Dentrinos on (062) 52 6801

Manufacturing inputs record high annual price increase ...

Prices of materials used in manufacturing industry increased by 0.2 per cent in July, the lowest monthly rise since a slight fall in December 1988.

However, seven successive monthly rises have now taken the annual rate of increase to 7.3 per cent, its highest level since August 1987.

The 0.2 per cent rise in July reflects price increases in a number of key materials, notably:

- ☐ electricity and natural gas — following annual tariff changes
- ☐ imported manufactured materials, particularly components for machinery and equipment, due to higher world prices and falls in the Australian dollar.

These increases were partly offset by falls in the price of oil and some other manufacturing inputs.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, JULY 1989
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.7	4.5
Home produced	-0.2	8.8
Total	0.2	7.3

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)* or contact Kathy Garton on (062) 52 5637

... while output prices rise faster

Figures for July reveal a continuing upward movement in the annual rate of price change in manufactured products.

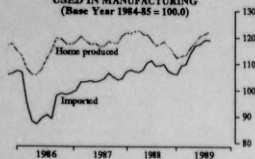
Prices in the industry rose by 0.6 per cent in July, lifting the annual rate of change to 7.6 per cent. The annual rate has now risen for six successive months since a trough of 5.9 per cent recorded in January.

The increase for July reflected price increases in a large number of products, but higher export prices for raw sugar alone contributed no less than 30 per cent to the rise in the index.

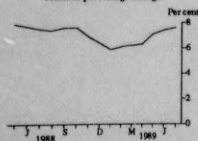
Increased prices for refined petroleum products also contributed significantly to the July rise. This reflected higher prices for crude petroleum in earlier months as a result of higher world prices and falls in the Australian dollar. (As noted in the previous item, oil prices also showed a marked decline in July itself.)

Continued over

PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS
USED IN MANUFACTURING
(Base Year 1984-85 = 100.0)



PRICE INDEX OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
Annual percentage change



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JULY 1989

Percentage change

Manufacturing Sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food & beverages	0.8	8.4
Clothing & footwear	0.8	8.2
Chemicals & petroleum	1.0	7.2
Basic metal products	-0.2	10.0
Fabricated metal products	1.2	9.0
Transport equipment	0.9	4.8
Other industrial machinery	0.5	5.3
All manufacturing industry	0.6	7.6

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0) or contact Peter Cordy on (062) 52 5541

Job vacancies down but overtime remains high

Private sector job vacancies led the way down as total vacancies fell 12.1 per cent between May and August this year.

The decline in estimated job vacancies was most apparent in the private sector in NSW and Victoria. Big falls in these two States brought the national level of private sector vacancies down 15 per cent to 44,400 — their lowest level since May 1988.

With public sector job vacancies also declining by 4.9 per cent, total vacancies stood at 64,300 in August, compared with 73,100 in May.

At the industry level, job vacancies in manufacturing fell 1,700 to 13,700, still slightly above the low of 13,300 recorded a year earlier.

Estimated average weekly paid overtime per employee, at 1.48 hours in August, equalled the November 1988 high, and was 11.3 per cent higher than the August 1988 figure.

The percentage of employees working paid overtime was slightly up on both May 1989 and August last year.

For further information, order the publication *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0) or contact David Martyn on (062) 52 6693

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: Seasonally adjusted data on job vacancies and overtime are expected to become available with the November 1989 survey results.

JOB VACANCIES, AUGUST

AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME, AUGUST
Per employee

Personal finance now ahead of housing finance

In the four months to July, new lending for personal finance has jumped ahead of lending for housing.

Despite a moderate decline in the July monthly figure, commitments for personal finance since April 1989 amounted to \$7,586.4 million, exceeding commitments for housing finance by \$1,486.2 million. This reflects the greater effect of increases in interest rates on the housing finance series.

Personal finance includes revolving credit (i.e. credit card facilities, personal lines of credit and personal overdrafts) as well as fixed loans.

In July 1989 personal finance commitments totalled \$1,739.7 million, down \$139.4 million (7.4%) on June 1989. Banks continued to be the major suppliers of personal finance, accounting for \$1,156.4 million (66.5%).

Fixed loan commitments of \$1,118.4 million accounted for the biggest portion of total commitments, while new and increased credit limits under revolving credit facilities made up the balance of \$621.3 million.

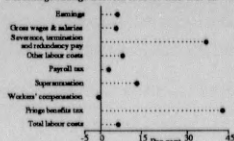
As usual, the purchase of new and used cars and station wagons was the biggest single reason for most borrowings under fixed loan facilities, accounting for \$455.3 million, or 40.7 per cent.

NEW PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, JULY 1989
\$ million

	Banks	Finance companies	Credit cooperatives	Other	Total
Fixed loan	610.0	320.4	162.0	26.0	1,118.4
Revolving credit	546.4	60.7	8.1	6.1	621.3
Total	1,156.4	381.0	170.1	32.1	1,739.7

For further information, order the publication *Personal Finance, Australia* (5642.0), or contact Pat Fitzgerald on (062) 52 7115

LABOUR COSTS PER EMPLOYEE
Percentage change between 1986-87 and 1987-88



Latest labour cost figures

The average cost per employee of employing labour in Australia rose by 6.4 per cent between 1986-87 and 1987-88.

Labour costs per employee rose by more in the public sector (up 8.0% to \$28,058) than in the private sector (up 6.3% to \$22,310). These rises produced an overall average cost per employee in 1987-88 of \$23,980.

Employers in the ACT bore the highest increase, with total labour costs per employee there rising by 13.4 per cent to \$27,275. Figures for the rest of Australia were:

South Australia up 10.3 per cent to \$22,925
 New South Wales up 8.6 per cent to \$25,734
 Western Australia up 8.0 per cent to \$23,718
 Tasmania up 7.6 per cent to \$22,191
 Queensland up 3.4 per cent to \$21,383
 Victoria up 2.7 per cent to \$23,375
 Northern Territory up 2.3 per cent to \$25,319.

Looking at different industries, the highest increases were recorded in Finance, property and business services where average costs per employee rose by 15.7 per cent, followed by Manufacturing (11.0%) and Electricity, gas and water (10.5%).

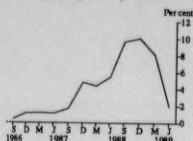
Gross wages and salaries per employee rose by an average 5.6 per cent over the year. Among the other labour costs, superannuation rose by 13.5 per cent from \$996 per employee in 1986-87 to \$1,130 in 1987-88. Workers' compensation costs fell slightly from \$552 per employee to \$547.

LABOUR COSTS PER EMPLOYEE, 1987-88
Dollars

Type of Labour Cost	Private	Public	Total
Earnings	20,133	24,552	21,417
Gross wages and salaries	19,667	23,905	20,899
Severance, termination and redundancy payments	466	646	518
Other labour costs	2,177	3,507	2,563
Payroll tax	769	680	743
Superannuation	707	2,163	1,130
Workers' compensation	530	547	547
Fringe benefits tax	171	75	143
Total labour costs	22,310	28,058	23,980

NOTE: Because of differences in concepts, definitions and coverage for superannuation, the costs per employee for private and public sector employees are not directly comparable.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES
Change from previous quarter



Established house prices slow down

Prices of established houses rose by 1.9 per cent in the June quarter — the lowest quarterly increase since the September quarter of 1987.

This is among the main points of a series on house price indexes published for the first time this week.

The ABS maintains these indexes for each of the eight capital cities for use in compiling the Consumer Price Index. They are now being published separately to cater for the widespread interest in information specifically relating to housing.

The rate of price increase for established houses fell during the June quarter in all capital cities except Hobart, where there was a marginal rise from a relatively low base.

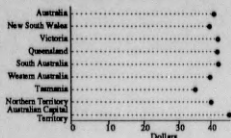
Perth continued to show the fastest growth in established house prices in the quarter, and as the accompanying table reveals, prices in that city grew more rapidly than in any other capital in the year to June.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES, JUNE QUARTER 1989
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	0.3	38.5
Melbourne	2.4	35.7
Brisbane	4.8	28.8
Adelaide	0.2	6.5
Perth	6.9	41.5
Hobart	1.8	11.7
Canberra	1.0	12.8
Darwin	-0.2	11.3
Weighted average of eight capital cities	1.9	33.1

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0) or contact Keith Woolford on (062) 52 6251

HAIRDRESSING TAKINGS, 1986-87
Per head of population



Hairdressers and beauty salons industry

ABS this week released the latest in a series of detailed industry studies based on its major 1986-87 Service Industries Survey.

The study of the hairdressers and beauty salons industry confirms that the industry is thoroughly dominated by small businesses. Enterprises employing fewer than 20 people accounted for 99 per cent of all businesses in the industry, 86 per cent of turnover and about 90 per cent of employment.

Overall in 1986-87 the industry comprised some 11,000 businesses, employing about 32,000 full-time and 8,000 part-time staff, 80 per cent of whom were females.

Industry turnover of \$790 million in the year works out at about \$49 per head of Australian population. Of this, \$41 per head relates to takings from hairdressing.

The industry increased its turnover by about 35 per cent in real terms in the seven years to 1986-87.

Employment grew by about 34 per cent, compared with an 11 per cent growth in the Australian population in this period.

Average operating profit in 1986-87 was about 14 per cent of turnover.

Like other publications in this series, the study of hairdressers and beauty salons includes a wide range of other detailed information.

For example there are statistics on size of business, staff employment status (males, females; full-time, part-time; permanent, casual; proprietors, employees) and types of takings and expenses.

A proforma has been included to enable individual businesses to compare their own expenses and operating profit with the average result for the industry as a whole.

For further information, order the publication *Hairdressers and Beauty Salons Industry, Australia* (8659.0), or contact Peter White on (062) 52 5633

Year Book Australia, 1989 is now available

The Australian Bureau of Statistics launched on Tuesday 3 October the latest edition of that most valuable publication, *Year Book Australia*.

The 1989 *Year Book* contains 860 pages of vital information about all aspects of Australia and its people.

The *Year Book* provides information covering all aspects of life in Australia, including:

little known facts ...

- ☐ the Australian sheep flock contains nine sheep for every person in Australia
- ☐ at birth, females can expect to outlive males by 6.3 years
- ☐ the highest rainfall recorded for 24 hours occurred at Beerwah in Queensland, when 907mm fell on 3 February 1893
- ☐ the population of Australia increased by 250,000 in the year to June 1987
- ☐ the proportion of Australians born here has decreased consistently since it peaked in 1947 at 90.2 per cent
- ☐ In 1986, 77.6 per cent of the population were Australian born

... and figures affecting daily activities:

- ☐ there are 374,362 bed spaces in hotels and motels around Australia
- ☐ one in eight Australians speaks a language other than English at home
- ☐ of 182,000 supporting parents receiving benefits, only 5 in every 100 are men
- ☐ 12 million tonnes of wheat were exported last year
- ☐ the average weekly total earnings for full-time adults was \$486.90 in February 1988
- ☐ \$7,322.6 million of new residential building was completed in 1987-88.

A must for businesses, schools, homes and libraries, this year's edition is available in hardback for \$64.95 and in soft cover for \$49.95.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

- PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
- Phone (062) 52 6627
- Fax (062) 53 1404

ABS State Offices

- NSW Phone (02) 268 4611
- Vic. Phone (03) 615 7000
- Qld Phone (07) 222 6351
- WA Phone (09) 323 5140
- SA Phone (08) 237 7100
- Tas. Phone (002) 20 5800
- NT Phone (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

The Editor
Statistics Weekly
(062) 52 6917

All the week's releases:

4 to 10 October

General

- Publications Issued in September, 1989 (1102.0; \$4.50)
- Classification Manual for Government Finance Statistics, Aust., 1989 (1217.0; \$22.50)
- Digest of Economic Statistics, Aust., August 1989 (1305.0; \$5.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., September 1989 (1303.2; \$7.50)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., September Qtr 1989 (1307.2; \$7.50)

Census of Population and Housing

- Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables: Third Edition (2175.0; \$22.50)
- Census 86 — Cross-classified Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Qld, (2492.0; \$16.00) — *new issue*

Demography

- Births, Aust., 1988 (3301.0; \$7.00)
- Deaths, Qld, 1988 (3307.3; \$3.00)

Social statistics

- Health Insurance Survey, Aust., June 1988 (4335.0; \$11.50)
- Hospital Morbidity, Qld, 1987 (4303.3; \$10.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, June Qtr 1989 (5222.0; \$7.50)
- State and Local Government Finance, Aust., 1987-88 (5504.0; \$19.00) — *new issue*
- Commercial Finance, Aust., July 1989 (5643.0; \$4.50)

Labour statistics and prices

- Major Labour Costs, Aust., 1987-88 (6348.0; \$15.00)
- Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., August 1989 (6354.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., July 1989 (6411.0; \$8.00)
- Price Indexes of Articles Produced By Manufacturing Industry, Aust., July 1989 (6412.0; \$5.00)
- House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1989 (6416.0; \$25.00) — *new issue*

Agriculture

- Australian Farming in Brief, 1989 (7106.0; free)
- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, August 1989 (7204.3; \$3.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., June 1989 (8358.0; \$8.00)
- Hairdressers and Beauty Salons Industry, Aust., 1986-87 (8659.0; \$7.50) — *new issue*
- Building Activity, Aust., June Qtr 1989 (8752.0; \$11.50)
- Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., June Qtr 1989 (8762.0; \$7.50)
- Building Approvals, NSW, August 1989 (8731.1; \$8.00)
- Tourist Accommodation, Four and Five Star Hotels and Motels, Melbourne Statistical Division, July 1989 (8646.2; \$5.00) — *new issue*
- Building Activity, Vic., June 1989 (8752.2; \$7.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, Qld, June Qtr 1989 (8635.3; \$12.00)
- Tourist Accommodation Indicators, Major Licensed Hotels and Motels, SA, July and August 1989 (8646.4; \$5.00) — *new issue*
- Building Approvals, NT, August 1989 (8731.7; \$5.00)
- Building Activity, ACT, June Qtr 1989 (8752.8; \$7.50)

NOTE

Prices quoted are subject to revision.

Calendar of key releases

Expected release dates over the next fortnight

October

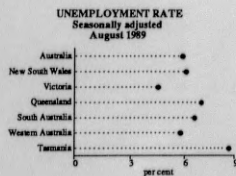
- 12** The Labour Force, Aust., September 1989, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.00)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, Sept. 1989 (6271.0; \$60.00)
- 16** Retail Trade, Aust., August 1989 (8501.0; \$8.00)
- 17** Import Price Index, Aust., June Qtr 1989 (6414.0; \$4.50)
- 23** Export Price Index, Aust (6405.0; \$4.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1989 (6407.0; \$8.00)
- 24** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1989 (6408.0; \$3.25)
- 25** Balance of Payments, Aust., September 1989 (5301.0; \$10.00)
- *** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., August 1989 (5609.0; \$7.50)

* Expected to be released during the week ending Wednesday 25 October

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

10 October 1989



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 89)*	29.9	27.9	-15.3	-7.0	6.2	81.7	n.a.	n.a.	18.0
Retail turnover (July 89) (trend estimate)	15.2	5.9	10.5	7.3	12.2	9.2	n.a.	3.6	10.7
New motor vehicle registrations (August 89)*	32.5	1.8	11.4	24.0	20.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	18.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (August 89)	-27.0	-16.5	-27.7	-2.3	-40.2	-14.1	-41.1	-29.5	-25.6
Value of total building work done (June 89)	38.6	42.1	34.4	22.9	54.9	17.4	-8.5	-3.0	36.8
Employed persons (August 89)*	3.4	6.2	6.8	6.1	5.5	2.3	n.a.	n.a.	5.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 89)	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.5	6.7	4.8	6.7	7.6
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 89)	9.0	6.6	7.7	6.9	8.0	8.2	5.6	6.6	7.8
Population (Mar. 89)	1.2	1.3	3.0	1.1	3.0	0.4	0.0	1.8	1.6
Room occupancy rates in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Mar. qtr 89)	1.5	-0.7	-3.2	1.0	2.9	4.1	-2.7	-7.6	-1.1

* Seasonally adjusted

Key national indicators – consolidated to 10 October 1989

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 89	85,333	87,970	2.5	13.1
	— 1984-85 prices			60,986	62,991	0.6	3.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 89	7,688	7,307	2.0	13.9
	— 1984-85 prices			6,130	5,809	0.8	16.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to Dec. 89	14,975	n.a.	n.a.	13.7
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	July 89	6,444	6,826	-0.4	11.8
	— 1984-85 prices		June qtr 89	14,145	14,642	0.0	3.5
New motor vehicle registrations		No.	August 89	54,652	49,896	-1.8	18.1
Dwelling unit approvals		"	"	13,338	11,790	-2.8	-27.3
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,281	1,943	-6.8	-1.8
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 89	7,622	7,711	7.6	36.9
	— 1984-85 prices			5,138	5,198	4.7	21.1
Manufacturers' sales		"	June qtr 89	34,261	34,196	3.4	14.6
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 89	70,922	n.a.	n.a.	12.0
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	August 89	7,727.6	7,800.0	0.7	5.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	"	5.7	5.9	-0.2	-1.2
Participation rate †	%	"	"	62.7	63.4	0.2	1.1
Job vacancies		'000	August 89	64.3	n.a.	-12.1	-2.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	"	1.5	n.a.	1.6	10.7
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 89	192.6	n.a.	2.4	7.6	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0	July 89	120.1	n.a.	0.2	7.3	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	"	"	"	"	"	
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 89	548.5	n.a.	0.6	7.6
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 89	4,610	5,054	9.3	24.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	August 89	17.95	n.a.	-0.1	4.4	
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	12.95	n.a.	-0.4	1.1	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	August 89	3,906	3,874	-1.8	14.0	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	5,232	4,768	13.1	32.4	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-1,326	-894	-229.9	-336.1	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-1,748	-1,236	-121.1	-296.2	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-2,580	-2,257	-39.7	-78.8	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 89	n.a.	112.8	-0.3	11.5	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	June qtr 89	108,159	n.a.	3.7	19.8	
Net foreign liabilities		"	140,906	n.a.	4.5	16.3	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per A\$	August 89	0.7621	n.a.	0.7	-5.5	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	59.2	n.a.	1.0	-3.7	
Other indicators							
Population (estimated resident)	million	Mar. 89	16.7	n.a.	0.4	1.6	
Overseas visitors	'000	July 89	175	190	4.8	-11.2	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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